

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6269

S E C R E T CAIRO 8793

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR UN IS EG

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO FAHMY

REF: USDEL SECRETARY SECTO 11007

1. I MET WITH FAHMY TODAY TO GIVE HIM THE ORAL MESSAGE ON YOUR MEETINGS WITH ASAD AND HUSSEIN. HE READ IT WITH INTEREST AND IMMEDIATELY GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT BE TRANSLATED AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. FAHMY THEN ASKED HOW WE HAVE REPLIED TO BREZHNEV'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD. HE NOTED RECENT PRESS STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO YOU THAT YOU EXPECT THE SOVIETS WILL ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT. IF TRUE, HE WONDERED IF THIS IS BASED ON SOME NEW INFORMATION ON SOVIET ATTITUDES. I REMINDED HIM THAT YOU HAD OUTLINED YOUR TENTATIVE THINKING ON A REPLY TO THE BREZHNEV MESSAGE, BUT DISCLAIMED ANY DIRECT KNOWLEDGE WHETHER ONE HAS BEEN SENT.

3. FAHMY NOTED THE SOVIETS CONTINUE VIGOROUSLY TO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ARE AGAIN PRESSING EGYPT. HE HAD MET WITH SOVIET CHARGE THREE TIMES LAST FRIDAY IN WHAT WERE STORMY SESSIONS. WHILE HE STILL DECLINED TO PROVIDE DETAILS, HE CLAIMED
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THAT IN ONE SUCH MEETING HE HAD THREATENED TO "EXPOSE"

THE SOVIETS IN THE BEIRUT PRESS. HE IS MOST ANXIOUS TO BE INFORMED OF ANY EXCHANGES WE HAVE WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE AGREEMENT AND RELATED MATTERS.

4. FAHMY CONTINES TO BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN COMBATTING CRITICAL PRESS CAMPAIGN LEVELED AT SADAT AND EGYPT BECAUSE OF THE AGREEMENT. HE HAS GIVEN PRESS INTERVIEW TO BEIRUT DAILY STAR, TEXT OF WHICH WILL ALSO APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S AL AHAM. HE SAYS THAT, IN AN EFFORT TO CALM THE SYRIANS, HE HAS HAD TO LEAK THE INFORMATION THAT GOE HAS OBTAINED ASSURANCES ISRAELI WILL NOT ATTACK SYRIA.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FAHMY WOULD NOT RPT NOT ELABORATE ON NATURE OF SOVIET DEMARCHES, WE SPECULATE THAT SOVIETS MAY AGAIN BE THREATENING HOLD UP ONLY RECENTLY AGREED UPON INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICALHELP AND SLOWING DOWN REPAIR OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT ENGINES. THEY MAY ALSO HAVE TURNED DOWN GOE'S DEBT RESCHEDULING REQUEST AND BE INSISTING UPON PROMPT REPAYMENT.

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